

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

By Brooks H

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee PTA
upon the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, on February 17, 1897, a group of mothers, led by Alice McClellen Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, met in Washington, D.C. to express their concerns as to the education, health, and safety of children and youth in this nation; and

WHEREAS, originally called the National Congress of Mothers, today this outstanding organization is known as the National PTA, the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States with one purpose – to serve children, their families, and their school communities; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Tennessee PTA celebrates 100 years of advocacy on behalf of the children of Tennessee since its inception on January 24, 1911, as the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers; and

WHEREAS, during the past hundred years, the Tennessee PTA has led the charge on countless issues to improve the lives of generations of Tennessee's children, including school lunch programs, immunization of all children against smallpox, whooping cough, and diphtheria, and strengthening child labor laws; and

WHEREAS, champions for education, the Tennessee PTA has played a vital role in the passage of legislation to increase education funding, enact more challenging school curriculums, improve rural elementary schools, establish kindergarten programs, promote library services, bus safety, vocational training, smaller class sizes, adequate textbooks, and more parental involvement in schools to name but a very few; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee PTA, over the years, has enjoyed outstanding leadership from across the state, including a number of Knoxvilleans, including PTA President Bettye Lis, who

ably served on the Tennessee Board of Education Committee to Study Requirements for School Graduation in 1978, Mrs. Willie A. Miles who was the first African American President of the Tennessee PTA in 1981, and Lois Jean White who became the first African American President of the National PTA in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, as Tennessee PTA commemorates its 100th anniversary it is highly appropriate that Past President Betsy Landers of Germantown will be installed as National PTA President in June, bringing yet another distinguished honor to this laudable organization; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor such a worthy organization that truly epitomizes the Volunteer Spirit of Tennessee and stands up for those individuals most precious to all Tennesseans, our children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we proudly honor and commend the Tennessee PTA as they celebrate 100 years of advocacy on behalf of the children of Tennessee and extend to them our best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.